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Arizona Corporation Commission

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Attorneys for Northern Sunrise Water Company and Southern Sunrise Water Company

### BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF DOCKET NO. W-20453A-06-0247 NORTHERN SUNRISE WATER COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE WATER UTILITY SERVICE IN COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA. DOCKET NO. W-20454A-06-0248 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SOUTHERN SUNRISE WATER COMPANY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO PROVIDE WATER UTILITY SERVICE IN COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA. DOCKET NOS. W-20453A-06-0251 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT W-20454A-06-0251 APPLICATION OF NORTHERN SUNRISE W-01646A-06-0251 WATER COMPANY AND SOUTHERN W-01868A-06-0251 SUNRISE WATER COMPANY FOR THE W-02235A-06-0251 APPROVAL OF SALE AND TRANSFER OF W-02316A-06-0251 WATER UTILITY ASSETS, AND CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES OF W-02230A-06-0251 W-01629A-06-0251 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY, FOR W-02240A-06-0251 MIRACLE VALLEY WATER COMPANY COCHISE WATER COMPANY, HORSESHOE RANCH WATER COMPANY, CRYSTAL WATER COMPANY, MUSTANG WATER **COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION** NO. 68826 COMPANY, CORONADO ESTATES WATER COMPANY, AND SIERRA SUNSET WATER COMPANY, LOCATED IN COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Pursuant to Decision No. 68826 (June 29, 2006), Northern Sunrise Water Company

and Southern Sunrise Water Company ("Applicants") hereby submit this compliance

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filing for amended Certificates of Convenience and Necessity ("CC&N").

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. Decision No. 68826 ("Order") requires Applicants to make certain filings by December 31, 2007, to amend their respective CC&Ns to include those customers who are being served outside the CC&Ns as a result of unauthorized extensions by the previous owner of the McLain Systems. The Order also allows Applicants to include areas where service is not being rendered, but that are otherwise reasonable and logical based on the individual circumstances.
- 2. The Order recognizes that until the applications are filed, the Commission is unable to determine whether it can merely update the Applicants' respective CC&N maps without additional hearings or proceedings. Order at ¶ 106. The Order further provides that the CC&N filings may include properties that are not currently receiving service but which should "logically be included within" the Applicants' respective service boundaries. *Id.*
- 3. Applicants contend that this filing requires only an administrative review of the applicable maps and legal descriptions to determine two core issues: (1) that service has already been established in the Applicants' proposed amended areas; and (2) the inclusion of areas where service is currently not being provided is reasonable and logical, and is therefore in the public interest. Based on the information provided herein, the amended CC&Ns should be approved.
- 4. This filing should not be used by any party to address any issue other than the two core issues identified above. Therefore, Applicants contend that in the absence of any <u>relevant</u> objections after written public notice, this compliance filing should be approved without a hearing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The McLain Systems included Miracle Valley Water Company, Cochise Water Company, Horseshoe Ranch Water Company, Crystal Water Company, Mustang Water Company, Coronado Estates Water Company, and Sierra Sunset Water Company.

#### **COMPLIANCE**

- 5. In support of this compliance filing, Applicants state as follows:
- 6. Applicants are public service corporations engaged in providing water for public purposes within portions of Cochise County, Arizona. Applicants were first granted their CC&Ns in Decision No. 68826 (June 29, 2006). Northern Sunrise Water Company ("Northern") currently serves approximately 330 water utility customers. Southern Sunrise Water Company ("Southern") currently serves approximately 800 water utility customers. The areas served by Applicants contain both residential and commercial properties.
- 7. A complete legal description and related maps for the proposed Northern amended area is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u>. The proposed Northern amended area includes approximately three (3) whole sections of land (minus the area already within Northern's CC&N) and 30 existing customers.
- 8. As depicted on the maps included in <u>Exhibit 1</u>, the proposed Northern amended area is the logical extension of Northern's existing CC&N because it contains water distribution and supply facilities that Northern acquired from Crystal Water Company and Mustang Water Company. These facilities are currently being used to provide water service to customers outside Northern's CC&N.
- 9. A complete legal description and map for the proposed Southern amended area is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. The proposed Southern amended area includes approximately six (6) whole quarter sections of land and 41 existing customers.
- 10. As depicted on the map included in Exhibit 2, the proposed Southern amended area is the logical extension of Southern's existing CC&N because it contains water distribution and water supply facilities that Southern acquired from Horseshoe Ranch Water Company and Miracle Valley Water Company. These facilities are currently being used to provide water service to customers outside its CC&N. Only 1

quarter section of land (NE corner of Section 17, Township 21E, Range 23S) included in the proposed Southern amended area does not presently contain water distribution mains or supply. However, Southern asserts that inclusion of this area is logical and reasonable because there are considerable existing water facilities contiguous to the north and west of this quarter section, and that if not included in this filing, would be contiguous to the amended CC&N on its northern, western and southern boundaries.

- 11. The proposed Northern and Southern amended areas do not include the service territory of any other public service corporation, water improvement district or other political subdivision of the state. Section 12 (T19E, R20S) in the Northern amended area is adjacent to the service area of the Whetstone Water Improvement District along its eastern boundary, and contiguous to the southwest corner of Section 6 (T20E, R20S), which is located within Sulger Water Company's CC&N. The Southern amended area is contiguous at certain areas to Bella Vista Water Company and Southland Utilities Company, Inc. East Slope Water Company's CC&N is contiguous to Southern's existing CC&N at certain areas. These other water providers and their respective CC&Ns or service areas are identified on the maps included in Exhibits 1 and 2.
- 12. In its Order, the Commission expressed its belief that Northern and/or Southern could merely update their respective CC&N boundaries by this Application "without a hearing if no interested party after notice requests such a hearing." Order at ¶ 106. However, the Order is unclear concerning the type and method of notice required. Therefore, Applicants request that the Commission's hearing division promptly schedule a procedural conference to address how public notice will be provided.
- 13. Applicants recognize that by requiring notice, the Commission intended to provide all affected persons an opportunity to be heard on the reasonableness and logic of including properties within the proposed amended areas. However, any request for a hearing should be limited to the two core issues identified herein: (1) that service has

already been established in the Applicants' proposed amended areas; and (2) the inclusion of areas where service is currently not being provided is reasonable and logical, and is therefore in the public interest. The inclusion of other issues (e.g. current moratorium on new hook-ups, or any proposed system repairs and improvements) will unduly broaden the scope of this proceeding. In traditional CC&N proceedings, developers pay for the administrative, legal and engineering costs associated with the requested expansion. However, in this matter the Applicants (and its ratepayers) are paying the costs associated with this compliance filing. Therefore, a limited review of the core issues is warranted and in the public interest.

14. In its Order, the Commission states that "Depending on the location and circumstances of these customers, the Commission may be able to amend the CC&Ns without a hearing, however, only Applicants' future filing will give us sufficient information to make that determination." *Id.* By this filing, Applicants assert that they have provided sufficient information for the Commission to conclude that amending their CC&Ns to include the proposed areas is in the public interest, and unless an affected party can provide a relevant basis for holding an evidentiary hearing, this matter should be approved without one.

WHEREFORE, Applicants respectfully request the following:

- A. That the Commission proceed to consider and act upon this compliance filing as timely as possible and to schedule a procedural conference to determine the method and scope of public notice required;
- B. That in the absence of any relevant objections by any affected person(s) after public notice is provided, the Commission enter an order amending Applicants' CC&Ns to include the proposed amended areas as set forth in the legal descriptions and illustrated maps contained in <a href="Exhibit 1">Exhibit 1</a> and <a href="Exhibit 2">Exhibit 2</a>; and

C. That the Commission grant such other and further relief as may be appropriate under the circumstances herein.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 2nd day of January, 2008.

FENNEMORE CRAIG, P.C.

By:\_

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ORIGINAL and 17 copies filed

this 2nd day of January, 2008 to:

Docket Control Arizona Corporation Commission 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Copy sent via e-mail and U.S. mail this 2nd day of January, 2008 to:

Jane L. Rodda, ALJ Hearing Division Arizona Corporation Commission 400 W. Congress St. Tucson, AZ 85701 Copy hand delivered

this 2nd day of January, 2008 to:

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## Exhibit 1

## Northern Sunrise Water Company - Proposed Amended Area

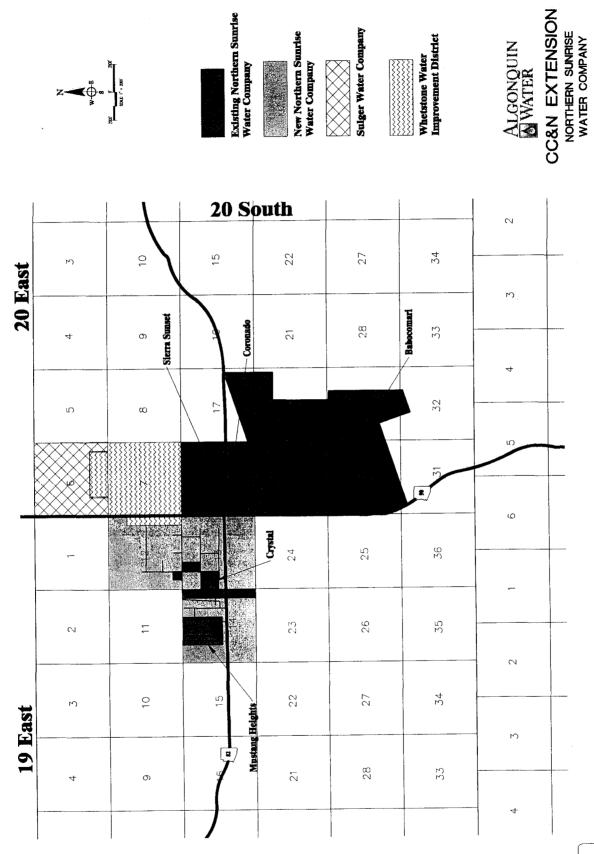
- Township 20 South, Range 19 East, G.& S.R.M., Cochise County, Arizona

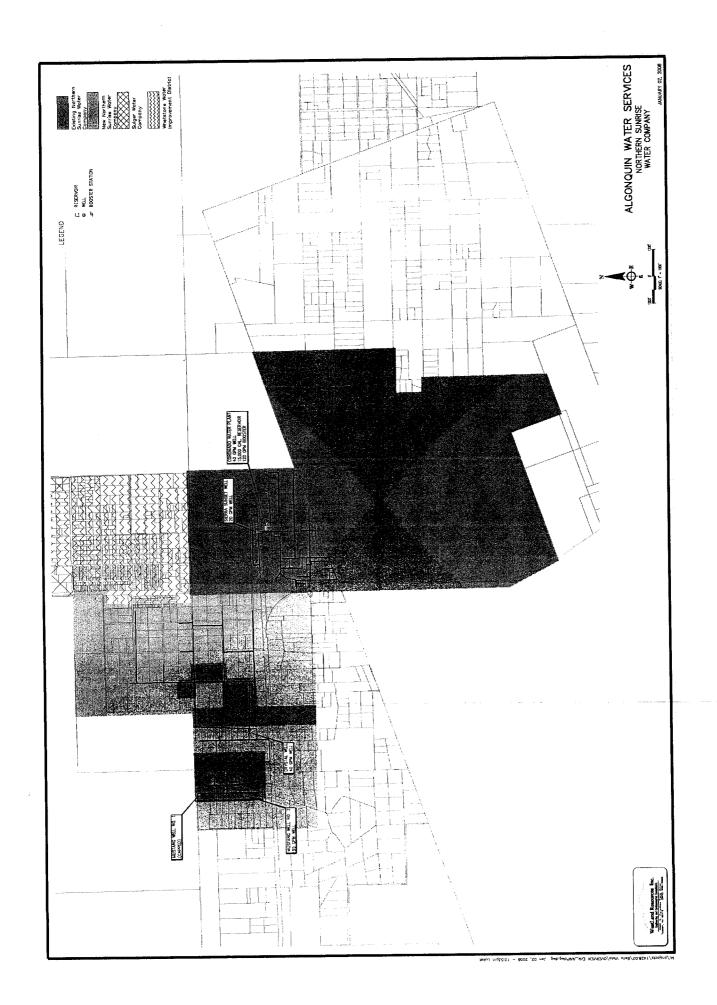
The Northwest 1/4; the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4, the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4, and the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4; the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 and the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4, the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, and the Northeast 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4, all in Section 12.

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The West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4; the East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 and the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4; the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 and the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; and the Southwest 1/4, all in Section 14.

CC&N EXTENSION NORTHERN SUNRISE WATER COMPANY ALGONQUIN WATER Ŕ Ø M





# Exhibit 2

### Southern Sunrise Water Company - Proposed Amended Area

- Township 23 South, Range 21 East, G.& S.R.M., Cochise County, Arizona

The Southwest 1/4 of Section 4.

The East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 8.

The Northwest 1/4 of Section 9.

The Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4; the Northeast 1/4; the Southeast 1/4; and the Southwest 1/4, all in Section 17.

The North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 20.

- Township 24 South, Range 22 East, G.& S.R.M., Cochise County, Arizona

The North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 6, and the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 6.

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